

## *The Book of Job Home Group Notes 9*

### **Job 38:1 – 40:6 Would you do a better job Job?**

**Set the scene:** What would you do if you were in charge of the UK for a day? What would you keep/change? Why?

**Recap:** Can you sum up what the big narrative of Job is so far?

**Hear from God: Read Job 38:1-40:6** – share it between those who like reading – the Hebrew poetry is majestic, reflecting the majesty of the words.

#### **Those who ask questions are expected to answer them too**

1. What is the main theme of God's speech?
2. Why do you think God speaks like this?
3. Before the speech, in v1, how is God described? Why is that important?
4. What is the Lord saying about Job in vv2-3?
5. What is God telling Job about himself in vv4-7?
6. And how is God different from humans?
7. How does God describe the sea in 8-11?
8. Why is the sea having limits important?
9. Can humans aspire to be God?

#### **Asking questions is easier than being put on the spot**

10. On social media people are very quick to propose better ways of doing things to those in authority. In 40:1-2 God calls Job's bluff. He has spent 30 chapters asking questions. Now he has received questions for 2 chapters, is he still saying he can do a better job than God?
11. How does God challenge Job? (40:2)
12. How does Job respond?

13. Is it a good response?
14. After we have railed against the Lord, how important is it to come to a place of quiet acceptance and humble submission?
15. Is Job wise?

### **Apply these things to your life**

16. King Alphonso X of Spain is said to have said, in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, 'had I been present at the creation I would have given some useful hints for the better ordering of the universe'. Do you think you could order the universe better than God? Or even just the world?
17. Do you find it possible to shut up when you ought to shut up? How might you improve in this?
18. Or is your issue not speaking up when you ought to speak? Job seemed to do both quite well
19. Read Mark 11:27-33. The questioners were willing to ask questions but not answer them. Was Jesus impressed? What did Jesus do to show them up? How did he leave it? Do have people who ask difficult questions of your faith but never answer difficult questions about theirs? What would Jesus do?

### **Prayer ideas**

- Ask the Lord for help in putting your interrogators on the spot
- Pray that we might be silent when we ought and speak when we ought
- Pray for a good whole understanding of the message of Job
- Pray for our Christmas services and those we wish to invite
- Pray for those contemplating a blue Christmas and how we might help